

26 April 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR: Staff Personnel

SUBJECT: Letter of Information

GENERAL

1. Hanoi on Negotiations: Following President Johnson's 31 March speech in which he stated his intention not to seek re-election and announced a partial bombing halt in Vietnam, the Okinawa and Saigon Bureaus were on the alert for a response from Hanoi. At 1146 GMT on 3 April the Hanoi Domestic Service announced an impending statement. Subsequently the text of this statement was monitored at Okinawa from a Hanoi broadcast in Vietnamese beginning at 1433 GMT. The text of the critical passage, which indicated Hanoi's willingness to meet with U.S. representatives, was filed out-of-turn and run as an FYI on the FBIS Wire Service at 1447. FBIS immediately phoned this information through channels to a higher authority in the Organization, who notified the President.

The Department of State sent a "flash" telegram, quoting the FBIS report, to the Secretary of State in Wellington, where he was attending a seven-nation foreign ministers' meeting. The full text of the 800-word statement from Hanoi cleared the Wire in little more than an hour after the broadcast and formed the basis for early White House and State Department statements. State's release of the FBIS Vietnamese version provided commercial press agencies with the text of the complete DRV statement. Later a cable from Wellington noted that Hanoi's reply "as reported by FBIS" had been distributed to the heads of the delegations there.

Throughout the period immediately following the President's speech, State Department cables discussing world reaction to the address were based largely on FBIS reporting. A TASS report datelined Hanoi, noting that North Vietnamese officials were proposing Warsaw as a site for talks, an item monitored by the London Bureau, was widely reported to be the first official information reaching the U.S. Government on the Warsaw proposal and resulted in a U.S. protest to the Soviet Union concerning the TASS reporting.

50X1

2. Saigon Situation: While the curfew in Saigon was again reduced during the month, it was still necessary for employees to remain overnight at the bureau. Except for the curfew, the Saigon

S-E-C-R-E-T

Group 1  
Excluded from automatic down-  
grading and declassification

S-E-C-R-E-T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 26 April 1968

security situation has generally reverted to the pre-Tet offensive status. A large military operation designed to clear Viet Cong elements from the environs of Saigon was initiated during March. Although mortar and rocket attacks on Tan Son Nhut airfield diminished in frequency and magnitude, most foreign airlines have not yet resumed service to South Vietnam. [redacted]

50X1

3. Panama Coverage: In order to cover President Robles' impeachment and subsequent related events, the Panama Bureau went on 24-hour operations for several periods during the month. Local military and civilian organizations relied heavily on the bureau's coverage of up to ten Panama City stations for current reportage on the Republic's continuing political crisis. The bureau received an expression of appreciation from Maj. Gen. Chester L. Johnson for its rapid processing of President Robles' speech prior to his trial, which enabled the chief of the U.S. Army Southern Command to read the first take of Robles' declaration of defiance even before he had completed the speech. [redacted]

50X1

#### SERVICES AND REQUIREMENTS

4. Propaganda Analysis: A special memorandum prepared at the request of the White House on 3 April summarized foreign radio and press reaction to President Johnson's 31 March address. Advance copies of the memorandum were sent to the White House Situation Room and to high level Organization, State, and Department of Defense officials. The covering summary was run on the Wire on 3 April and an updated version of the communist section was disseminated to Wire Service consumers on 5 April. [redacted]

50X1

Following the TASS announcement that the DRV had proposed Warsaw as a venue for preliminary contacts between officials of Hanoi and Washington, at PAD's request the London Bureau furnished the original Russian for the passage in which TASS said that "Hanoi official circles" believed that Washington's rejection of Warsaw was "legally untenable." PAD forwarded this and other information to Under Secretary of State Katzenbach in preparation for a meeting with Soviet Ambassador Dobrynin. Material concerning Hanoi's role in South Vietnam was also given to Mr. Katzenbach, who expressed his appreciation. [redacted]

50X1

Special Report CD.283, "The Current State of the Cultural Revolution as Portrayed in Shanghai Propaganda," examined the manner in which recent Shanghai propaganda has reflected national policy lines. This report was generated by inquiries on the subject from Organization and State Department analysts. [redacted]

50X1

- 2 -

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 26 April 1968

PAD also provided information for a Department of State report to U.S. missions in Hong Kong, Moscow, and Tokyo to the effect that Peking broadcasts to the USSR have maintained a high level of anti-Soviet virulence. [REDACTED]

50X1

5. Hanoi on U.S. Elections: Biweekly Special Memorandums reviewing Hanoi and Liberation Radio propaganda on the U.S. election campaign were instituted by PAD on 19 April, in response to a request from the Director of Intelligence and Research, Department of State. Highest-level interest in Hanoi propaganda treatment of U.S. dissension over the war, and particularly of the U.S. election campaign as it reflects such dissension, had prompted other similar requirements. A Special Memorandum on 12 April analyzing the extent and nature of such propaganda from Hanoi was prepared by PAD at the request of the Director of OCI with the White House as the ultimate recipient.

50X1

The Wire Service continues to carry all Hanoi references to U.S. opposition to the war, including reports on dissent from Administration policy at all levels and reports on the U.S. election campaign citing Vietnam as an issue. This material supports daily reports being prepared elsewhere for the President. [REDACTED]

50X1

6. Special Services: Copies of DRV Foreign Minister Trinh's statements on conditions for peace talks from January 1967 to the present were compiled by PAD and the Liaison and Requirements Office in response to an urgent request from the White House. [REDACTED]

50X1

In response to an operational immediate request from the American Ambassador, Vientiane, the Bangkok Bureau began processing intercepts from the clandestine Laotian radios on military activity in the Pha Thi area of Laos. [REDACTED]

50X1

At the request of an Organization component, the Mediterranean Bureau mailed a tape recording of the UAR President Nasir's 30 March speech to the American Embassy in Bonn. [REDACTED]

50X1

Two linguists from the Czechoslovakia/Hungarian Branch of Europe, Africa, Latin America Division were detailed to translate documents in connection with the recent defection of Czech Gen. Jan Sejna. A White House request for a translation of the 12 April New Times by a Soviet military authority was filled by the USSR Division;

- 3 -

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 26 April 1968

the translation was completed in an hour and promptly run on the Wire Service. Several linguists from the Near East Branch of Asia Division combined to prepare a reverse translation from Arabic into English of two documents for an Organization component. [REDACTED]

50X1

7. Press and Document Exploitation: A 17 April letter from the Chief of Operations to the Chiefs of the London and Austrian Bureaus directed that press monitoring at both bureaus should be restricted to current information. The London PMU will be responsible solely for Soviet current press monitoring, while responsibility for all East European current press monitoring will belong to the Austrian Bureau. [REDACTED]

50X1

Although Soviet press coverage of the recent writers trial conspicuously avoided all mention of the case for the defense, defense counsel Zolotukhin's brief was carried in Le Nouvel Observateur and an article favorable to the defendants appeared in the emigré paper Posev. Both items were translated for the Daily Report at Headquarters. [REDACTED]

50X1

The Near East Branch of Asia Division completed translation of the 40-page Jordanian Armed Forces Telephone Directory. Japanese linguists in the Asia Division translated five tapes of the narratives for documentary films relating to Chinese-Japanese trade relations. [REDACTED]

50X1

8. Lateral Service: In response to a 5th Air Force request, Okinawa Bureau began filing processed North Korean material to Advon Air Force Base in South Korea. [REDACTED]

50X1

9. Use of FBIS Material: Mr. Paul K. Cook, Political Officer of the U.S. Embassy, Moscow, during a visit to the Austrian Bureau, described the Embassy's reliance on the FBIS textual translations of lengthy items from the Soviet press. [REDACTED]

50X1

A Department of State Research Memorandum, dated 11 March 1968, quoted a Daily Report translation of the press version of a Kosygin speech delivered in Minsk. Three USSR scientific items that appeared in the Daily Report formed the basis for analytical comment in the OSI weekly Surveyor. [REDACTED]

50X1

- 4 -

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 26 April 1968

PUBLICATIONS

10. Daily Report Changes: On 11 April the West Europe section of the Daily Report was detached from the Middle East, Africa & West Europe volume, which was retitled "Middle East & Africa." The detached section was incorporated in the Latin America book, which was in turn retitled, "Latin America & Western Europe." Concurrently, new formats for the tables of contents, page headings, and country breakdowns were effected to improve the physical appearance of the Daily Report.

50X1

11. Reaction Reports: PAD has been assigned responsibility for the coordination and preparation (including the non-communist section) of all world reaction reports.

50X1

12. Supplements: Nine supplements to the Daily Report were published during the past month: "Text of Shelepin Report to 14th AUCCTU Congress in Moscow on 27 February," dated 21 March, 49 pages; "Materials on the 50th Anniversary of the Soviet Armed Forces, Volume II," dated 28 March, 84 pages; "Materials on Internal Czechoslovak Political Developments, Volume III," dated 25 March, 86 pages; same title, volume IV, dated 27 March, 59 pages; Volume V, dated 1 April, 86 pages; Volume VI, dated 28 April, 61 pages; Volume VII, dated 18 April, 81 pages; and Volume VIII, dated 24 April, 68 pages; "GDR Revised Draft Constitution and Referendum Law Confirmed by People's Chamber 26 March 1968," dated 10 April, 30 pages (prepared by German Bureau).

50X1

FIELD OPERATIONS

13. Broadcasting Developments: Despite reports of attempts to bomb Radio Hanoi, the Saigon and Okinawa Bureaus confirmed the station was continuing to use its full complement of transmitters. Liberation Radio, the voice of the Viet Cong, is using two new transmitters parallel with its normal two shortwave radios. Radio Saigon has resumed normal use of its transmitters for the first time since the Tet offensive.

50X1

The clandestine "Radio Pathet Lao" began broadcasting an additional hour of news at dictation speed during the month. This station is covered by the Bangkok Bureau. "Radio South Africa" will

- 5 -

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 26 April 1968

add programs for Australia, New Zealand, and parts of the Far East on 5 May as part of its expanding effort to reach a world audience. The BBC covers this transmitter. [REDACTED]

50X1

14. MOS Services: Those bureaus concerned with USSR monitoring have been requested to supply special coverage plans for the forthcoming annual Radio Day in the USSR on May 7th. All bureaus are reminded that the intelligence community can use all substantive materials on telecommunications monitored from either radio or press. [REDACTED]

50X1

ENGINEERING

15. Hokkaido Bureau Relocation: Official ASA approval for the relocation of the Bureau to a site adjacent to the ASA 12th Field Station on Chitose III was received on 25 March. By 28 March, site preparations had commenced and the Post Engineer, who is doing the work, estimates that construction will be completed in 30-45 days, depending upon weather conditions. [REDACTED]

50X1

16. Bureau Communications: New UHF communications equipment for the Bangkok Bureau was activated on 18 April. This equipment will provide the tails between the Bureau and the DCA communications center in Bangkok for the allocated circuit to Saigon and the AUTODIN circuit when it is installed. [REDACTED]

50X1

A direct full-duplex teletype circuit between the London Bureau PMU and Caversham, replacing the PMU-Embassy-Caversham circuit, was activated on 6 March. It is planned to upgrade the circuit to 100 WPM in early April. This circuit has been equipped with new model-28 teletype equipment. [REDACTED]

50X1

MISCELLANEOUS

17. Suggestion Awards: On 2 April the Director, FBIS presented suggestion award certificates and checks to two FBIS employees, [REDACTED] of the USSR Division and [REDACTED] of the Administrative Staff, who submitted suggestions that were adopted for use by the organization and other agencies. [REDACTED]

50X1

50X11

50X1

18. Transfer of Function: The responsibility for translation requirements has been transferred from the Publications Division to the Liaison and Requirements Office. [REDACTED]

50X1

- 6 -

S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 26 April 1968

19. Quality Control: In conjunction with bureau efforts to provide fully edited copy, the Publications Division is returning to the field as promptly as possible selected items of copy with appropriate comments and editorial handbook references. These are reviewed by the appropriate editorial branch chief and the Chief, Processing Branch, then forwarded through the Division Chief to the appropriate bureau. [redacted]

50X1

20. Editorial Training: The Air Force communications course, which has been modified to reflect FBIS needs, has been given to several editors on an experimental basis. It has proved effective and has been incorporated into the Editorial Training Program as a standard feature. A copy of the course will soon be furnished to each field bureau. [redacted]

50X1

21. Non-monitored Items: Only monitored materials should be disseminated by field bureaus to lateral consumers. Important information acquired through open channels other than monitoring should be transmitted only to Headquarters and other FBIS bureaus. [redacted]

50X1

22. Briefings and Visits: Brig. Gen. Gilbert H. Woodward, new senior U.N. representative at the Military Armistice Commission at Panmunjom, was briefed by the Liaison and Requirements Officer on FBIS support to the mission. [redacted]

50X1

[redacted] Head of the BBC Monitoring Service, visited the Okinawa Bureau from 4-6 March. The Bangkok Bureau was visited by Col. Joseph J. Jackson, MACTHAI J-2, on 15 March and Mr. G. Lewis Schmidt, Director, USIS Thailand, on 25 March. [redacted]

50X1

[redacted] of PAD participated in the USIA-sponsored China Information Policy Conference 14-15 March. The sessions were chaired by Ambassador Foy Kohler. The Program Director for VOA and the heads of VOA's China Program and Far East Division visited PAD as a follow-up to the conference. [redacted]

50X1

50X1

50X1

#### ADMINISTRATION

23. Addressing of Communications: Letters are periodically addressed to the Chief of Operations on matters for which the

S-E-C-R-E-T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 26 April 1968

Administrative Staff is responsible. Bureau Chiefs are referred to [redacted] subject: Routing of Communications. Subjects listed as the responsibility of the Chief, Administrative Staff, should be so addressed. [redacted]

50X1

50X1

50X1

PERSONNEL [redacted]

24. New Employees

Assignment

[redacted]

Monitor, Caribbean Bureau  
Area Officer, USSR Division  
Editor, Publications Division  
Editor, Publications Division  
Editor, Publications Division

50X1

25. Reassignments

From

To

[redacted]

Radio Operator East Coast Bureau	Radio Operator Caribbean Bureau
Editor Publications Division	Editor Okinawa Bureau
Editor Publications Division	Editor London Bureau
Area Officer USSR Division	Editor Publications Division
Chief [redacted]	Chief Saigon Bureau.

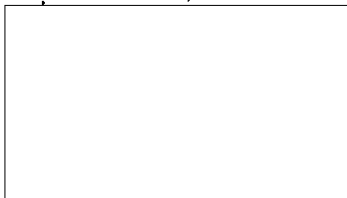
50X1

50X1

S-E-C-R-E-T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 26 April 1968

26. Resignations



From . . . .

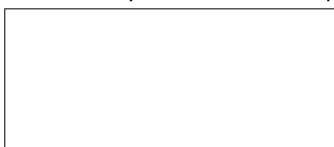
Clerk, Publications Division

50X1

Monitor, East Coast Bureau

Area Officer, USSR Division

27. Retirements

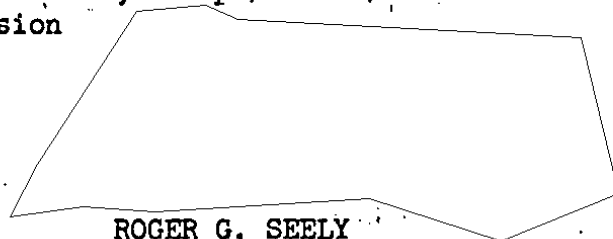


From

Acting Chief Engineer, West Coast Bureau

50X1

Area Officer, Europe/Africa/Latin America  
Division



50X1

ROGER G. SEELY

Director

Foreign Broadcast Information Service

S-E-C-R-E-T